

CONSENSUS-BASED DECISIONS AND GROUND RULES AGREEMENT

Consensus-based Decisions

The Helena Citizens Conservation Advisory Board will work by consensus to reach decisions and to develop recommendations for restoration projects within the project area. Consensus can be tested by asking Committee members how they feel about a particular decision or recommendation according to the following statements:

1. "I can say I **wholeheartedly agree** with the decision."
2. "I find the decision **perfectly acceptable**. It is the best option available to the Committee."
3. "I can **support** the decision, although I am not especially enthusiastic about it."
4. "I do not fully agree with the decision and need to register my view about it. However, I do not choose to block the decision. **I am willing to support the decision** because I trust the wisdom of the group."
5. "I do not agree with the decision and feel the need to **block** the decision from being accepted as consensus."
6. "I feel we have no clear sense of unity in the group. We need to **do more work before consensus can be achieved**."

Consensus is achieved if all Committee members present indicate that they are at levels 1 through 4. A quorum of Committee members is required to achieve consensus.

When consensus is tested and a Committee member is at level 5 or 6, that person must clearly articulate his or her concern to the larger group, and if possible, work to develop a solution and present that solution to the Committee for the Committee's consideration. The Committee may continue with this procedure until consensus is achieved or the Committee can decide to not move forward with a particular decision or recommendation.

If consensus is not achieved for a particular recommendation, the recommendation can still be forwarded to the agency with the proposed project and the level of consensus will be noted (e.g. consensus minus one recreation representative).

Meeting Ground Rules

The Committee is committed to working within the following meeting ground rules, demonstrating respect for each other by:

- Listening actively,
- Listening honorably and respecting each other,
- Giving the other person permission to openly speak his or her mind,
- Avoiding attacking remarks, name calling, etc.,
- Not interrupting,
- Not conducting side conversations.